



MEMO

To: Public Health Committee

From: eHealthConnecticut, Inc.

Date: 03/12/10

Subject: Testimony on SB403

The Board of Directors of eHealthConnecticut stands ready to support the State of Connecticut in its Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange (HIE) initiative.

As background, eHealthConnecticut has been functioning as a not for profit 501c3 corporation for four years. Its mission is to champion and sustain a Health Information Exchange with the ultimate goal being improved patient care quality and safety. eHealthConnecticut is designated by the federal government as a Chartered Value Exchange, one of only twenty four organizations in the country to achieve this status. It has completed a project to provide primary care physicians across the state with an electronic quality report that will assist them in identifying opportunities for improving the services they deliver.

The organization is currently engaged in a pilot program with the Department of Social Services to operate a Health Information Exchange for the sharing of data across several hospitals, federally qualified health centers and physician practices. This scalable project is supported by federal funding and the HIE will be up and running within the next 60 days.

At its last meeting, the eHealthConnecticut Board voted unanimously to offer eHealthConnecticut as the corporate vehicle for use by the State to allow the State to become a corporation with nonprofit status as quickly as possible. Recognizing that the State would want to name its own Board of Directors to govern the organization, the eHealthConnecticut Board of Directors unanimously voted to resign to provide that opportunity. In addition, an orderly transition of existing contracts would be effectuated.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to this offer to provide the State with a quick solution to the corporate structure it is seeking under SB403. It would result in less time and fewer financial resources being expended by the State to incorporate and receive non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. This time and these resources could then be redirected to the actual work of building and operating the Health Information Exchange.

